

Population



2004

The region continued to grow significantly faster than the rest of the nation along with demographic transformation.

Population

Growth Characteristics

In the year 2003, the SCAG region continued its significant growth with an increase of almost 300,000 people, more than 10 percent of the total growth in the nation (Figure 1). By the end of 2003, total population in the region reached over 17.7 million, representing 6 percent of the population in the nation and close to half of the population in the state. Total population in the region continued to exceed the population in Florida, the fourth largest state in the nation. Notably, during 2003, population in Los Angeles County exceeded 10 million and in Orange County exceeded 3 million, the two most populous counties in the state.

Since 1990, annual population growth in the region has varied significantly (Figure 2). Between 1991 and 1994, population growth dropped consecutively from about 270,000 to only 80,000 mainly due to the sharp increase of net domestic outmigration caused by the severe recession.¹ Between 1994 and 2000, net domestic outmigration decreased continuously and in 2000 the region began to experience a small net domestic in-migration. Accordingly, population growth began to accelerate, increasing from about 80,000 in 1994 to 350,000 in 2000. Since 2000, population growth in the region has been slowing, decreasing from about 350,000 in 2000 to 300,000 in 2003. Nevertheless, the average annual growth of 325,000 between 2000 and 2003 was the highest in the region since 1950.

Figure 1
Population Increase: 2002 and 2003 (000)

County	1/1/02	1/1/03	1/1/04	2002 Increase		2003 Increase	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Imperial	150.2	152.6	156.6	2.4	1.6%	4.0	2.6%
Los Angeles	9,817.4	9,966.2	10,103.0	148.8	1.5%	136.8	1.4%
Orange	2,930.5	2,975.4	3,017.3	44.9	1.5%	41.9	1.4%
Riverside	1,645.3	1,719.0	1,776.7	73.7	4.5%	57.7	3.4%
San Bernardino	1,788.5	1,842.1	1,886.5	53.6	3.0%	44.4	2.4%
Ventura	778.4	791.6	802.4	13.2	1.7%	10.8	1.4%
REGION	17,110.3	17,446.9	17,742.5	336.6	2.0%	295.6	1.7%
Rest of California	17,889.7	18,165.1	18,401.5	275.4	1.5%	236.4	1.3%
California	35,000.0	35,612.0	36,144.0	612.0	1.7%	532.0	1.5%
U.S.	286,610.8	289,470.8	292,287.4	2,860.1	1.0%	2,816.6	1.0%

Source: California Department of Finance and U.S. Census Bureau annual January 1st estimates.

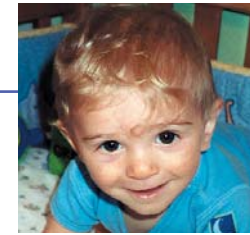
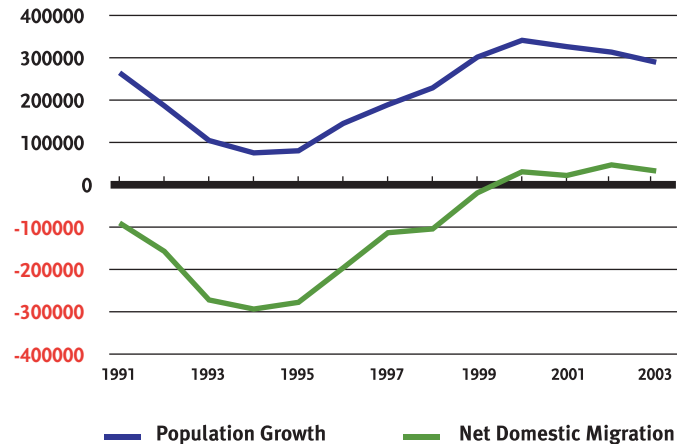


Figure 2
Population Growth vs. Net Domestic Migration

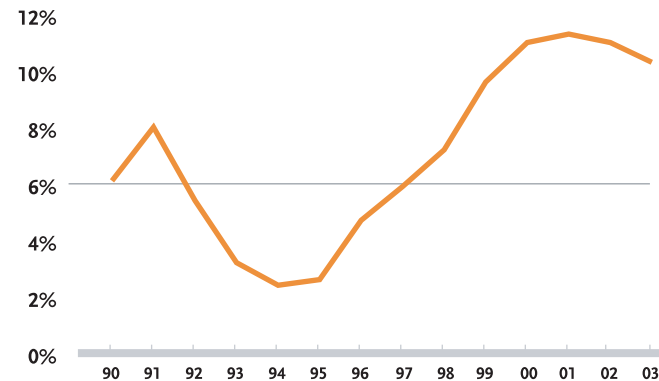


Source: California Department of Finance and SCAG

Between 1990 and 2003, because of the significant fluctuation of population growth in the region and relatively stable growth in the nation, the region's share of population growth in the nation also fluctuated widely. Specifically, the region's share of population growth in the nation dropped from about 8 percent in 1991 to only 2.5 percent in 1994 and increased to its peak of 11.5 percent in 2001 (Figure 3).

The region has continued to grow at faster rates than the rest of the state and the nation since 1998. For example, in 2003, the population growth rate at 1.7 percent in the region continued to be significantly higher than that of the rest of the state (1.3 percent) as well as the nation (just below 1 percent). Among the nine largest metropolitan regions, Southern California experienced the third highest growth rate following Dallas and Boston regions between 2000 and 2003 (see Figure 71 page 108).

Figure 3
SCAG Region's Share of Population Growth in U.S.

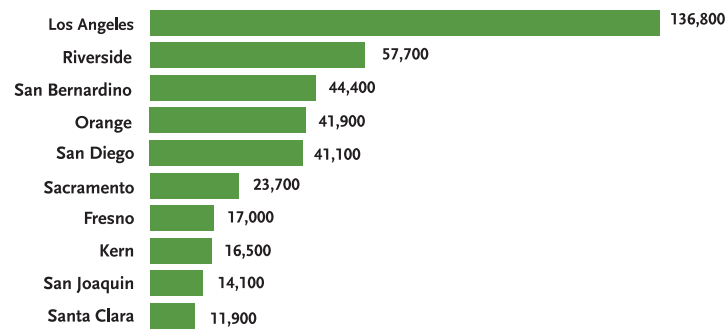


Source: California Department of Finance and U.S. Census Bureau

Between 1990 and 2003, the fertility rates (the average number of children per women of childbearing age) within the state have been declining across different racial/ethnic groups, particularly for Hispanic women who have had the highest fertility rate. For example, the total fertility rate for Hispanic women fell sharply from 3.41 in 1990 to 2.6 in 2003. This was due primarily to the even sharper decline of fertility rates among foreign-born Hispanic women, dropping from 4.34 to 3.25 during the same period.² Between 1990 and 2003, the overall fertility rates in the region declined from 2.6 to 2.2 resulting in a decrease of total births from about 330,000 to 270,000 during a 13 year period. The impact of the decrease in total births between 1990 and 2003 on population growth has been more than offset by the significant turnaround in domestic migration.

Population growth in the region in 2003 accounted for 56 percent of the total increase in the state. *The top four California counties in population increase were in the SCAG region, including Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties (Figure 4).* Two neighboring counties of the SCAG region also made it into the top ten, including San Diego County (5th) and Kern County (8th). Another neighboring county, Santa Barbara, only increased 4,500 people during 2003. In contrast, only two counties in northern California made it into the top ten, Sacramento (6th) and Santa Clara (10th).

Figure 4
Top Ten California Counties in Population Increase in 2003



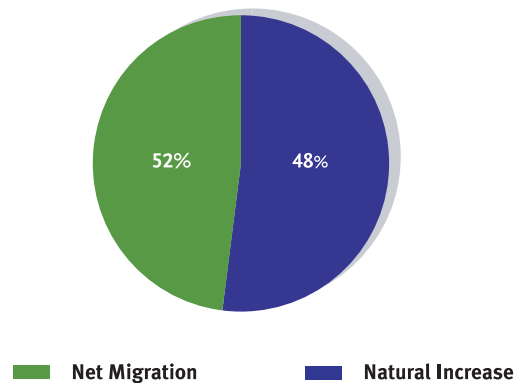
Source: California Department of Finance

Within the region, every county grew at a faster rate than the rest of the state in 2003. In particular, Riverside County achieved the highest growth rate of 3.4 percent in the state while Imperial and San Bernardino counties had the 5th and 6th highest rates respectively.

About 46 percent of total population increase in the region in 2003 was in Los Angeles County. Fourteen percent was in Orange County, and 35 percent was in the Inland Empire. Since 2000, the population growth share of Los Angeles County at 46 percent was significantly higher than its share of 35 percent during the 1990s, while the population growth share of Orange County at 14 percent was significantly lower than its share of 23 percent during the 1990s. For the Inland Empire, population growth share since 2000 was similar to that of the 1990s.

As to the sources of population growth, close to half (48 percent) was due to natural increase and just over half (52 percent) was from net migration (Figure 5). Natural increase represents the difference between births and deaths. Net migration includes both net domestic migration and foreign immigration. Based on the trends in the past few years, about four-fifths of the net migration was from foreign immigration, and one-fifth was from domestic in-migration. Hence approximately 41 percent of the total growth in the region in 2003 was estimated to be from foreign immigration and 11 percent from domestic in-migration.

Figure 5
Population Growth by Types of Source,
2002-2003



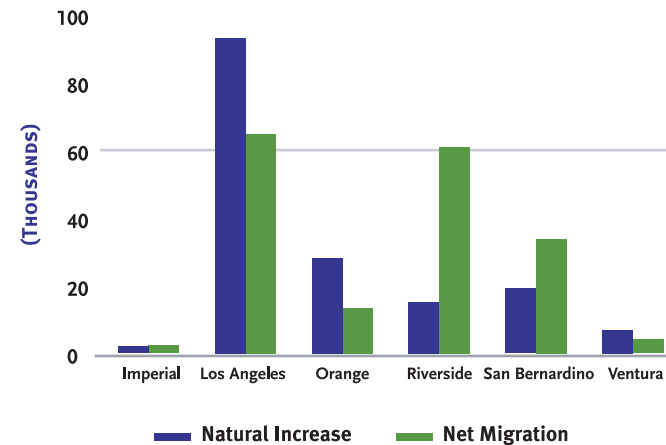
Natural Increase = Births - Deaths

Source: California Department of Finance

Within the region, natural increase and net migration contributed differently to the population growth among different counties (Figure 6). Overall, natural increase contributed much more significantly to the growth in the three coastal counties (Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura) than the three inland counties (Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial) where net migration played a more important role. For example, in 2003, while natural increases accounted for almost 68 percent of the population growth in Orange County, it accounted for only

20 percent of the population growth in Riverside County. Conversely, while net migration accounted for 80 percent of the population increases in Riverside County in 2003, it accounted for only 32 percent of the population growth in Orange County. While net migration to the coastal counties (particularly Los Angeles) consisted primarily of recent foreign immigrants, net migration to the Inland Empire was primarily domestic migrants who moved within the region (i.e. intra-regional migration), particularly from Los Angeles County.

Figure 6
Population Growth by Types of Source by County,
2002-2003



Source: California Department of Finance based on July 1st estimates

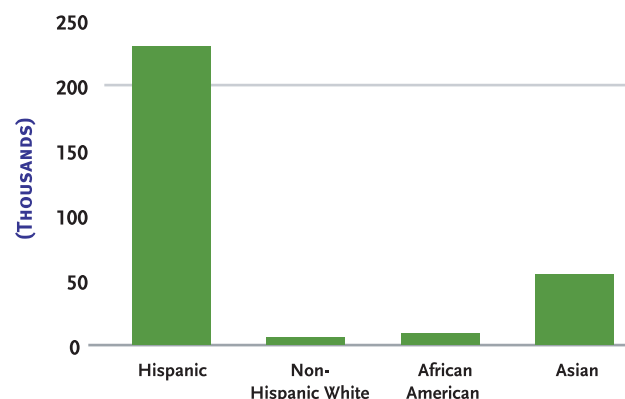


As to intra-regional migration among the six counties, the 2000 Census reported that between 1995 and 2000, Riverside County attracted 93,140 more people and San Bernardino attracted close to 60,000 more people due to intra-regional migration. Searching for more affordable single-family housing was an important reason for the net intra-regional in-migration into the Inland Empire. During the same period, Los Angeles County lost about 205,000 people to the other five counties in the region through net intra-regional outmigration. Within the region, Los Angeles County was the only county that experienced a net intra-regional outmigration between 1995 and 2000.³

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION

The demographic transformation of the region continued through 2003, particularly with respect to ethnic composition. Population growth continued to be almost exclusively among Hispanics and Asians (Figure 7). Between 2000 and 2003, of the average annual growth of 296,000 people, about 230,000 (78 percent) were Hispanics and 54,000 (18 percent) were Asians. Non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans together accounted for only about four percent of the annual population growth. Hence, between 2000 and 2003, the share of non-Hispanic White population in the region continued to decrease, from 40 to 37 percent, while the share of Hispanic population continued to increase, from 41 to 43 percent. During 2002 and 2003, the non-Hispanic White population share fell below a half for the first time in Orange and Riverside counties, joining Imperial, Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties. In 2003, only Ventura County had a non-Hispanic White population share greater than half (55 percent). Also in 2003, the Asian population share was at

Figure 7
Population Growth by Race and Ethnicity
(2000 - 2003 Annual Average)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

about 11 percent while the share of African American population in the region dropped below 7 percent.

Finally, the median age of the population in the region continued to rise, though at a slower pace than the rest of the nation. Median age in the region increased from 30.7 in 1990 to 32.3 in 2000 and 33.1 in 2003. In terms of median age in 2003, the region continued to be younger than the state (34) and the nation (36). The share of people 65 years and over increased slightly from 9.6 to 9.7 percent between 2000 and 2003. Among the nine largest metropolitan regions in the nation, the SCAG region continued to be the second youngest in terms of median age, next to the Dallas region.